



ABERGAVENNY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Council Offices.

Monk Street.

Abergavenny.

August, 1942.

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

As directed by the Ministry and Welsh Board of Health, I am submitting a brief interim report for the year 1941.

I. BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

Total number of births.....	124.
Legitimate.....	119.
Illegitimate.....	5.
Total number of deaths.....	115.
Total number of Stillbirths.....	5.
Legitimate ".....	4
Illegitimate ".....	1.
Total number of deaths of children under one year.....	9.
Legitimate.....	8.
Illegitimate.....	1.
Live birth rate per 1,000 of population....	13.8
Stillbirth " " ".....	0.51
Death Rate " " ".....	12.8
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births.....	72.6

II. NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES. (Other than Tuberculosis)

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Number Notified.</u>	<u>Number treated in Hospital.</u>	<u>Number of Deaths.</u>
Diphtheria.	6.	5.	nil.
Scarlet Fever.	10.	6.	nil.
Cerebrospinal Fever.	1.	1.	nil.
Measles.	36.	nil.	1.
Whooping Cough	5.	nil.	1.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	1.	1.	nil.
Puerperal Pyrexia	nil.	nil.	nil.

Though the number of cases notified is comparatively small, reports sent in by the head teachers of schools in the district show that there was a widespread epidemic of measles at the beginning of the year - fortunately not a very virulent type.

III. IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

During the year a special effort was made to immunise all school-children, whose parents were willing, against diphtheria. Each school in the district was visited at least twice; and parents were encouraged to bring their children under school age to the school to be immunised.

The response among children of school age was good; that of children under school age might have been better.

Number of Children	totally	immunised	during	1941....	1086.
"	"	"under five"	"	"	"
"	"	"between 5 & 15"	"	"	"
				91.
				995.

Number of children	partially	immunised	on	31st Dec.	1941..	49.
"	"	"under five"	"	"	"	"
"	"	"between 5 & 15"	"	"	"	"
						..6.
						..43.

These figures do not take into account those children living in the Rural District who attend schools in the Borough; nor those children under school age who were immunised at the Infant Welfare Clinic.

As the Foster parents' address was given on many of the forms of consent, it is difficult to give an accurate estimate of the number of evacuees included in the above, but over 300 were officially evacuated school-children

IV. TUBERCULOSIS.

Total number of cases notified during 1941 - 16.
(9 Mental Hospital)
Number of Pulmonary cases. 13. (8 Mental Hospital)
" " Non Pulmonary " 3 (1 Mental Hospital)
Number of deaths from Tuberculosis. 2. (Pulmonary)

Deaths occurring at the Mental Hospital are not included in these returns unless the patient lived in the Rural District prior to admission.

V. GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

On December 31st 1941 there were, in the Rural Area, 317 unaccompanied children; 32 mothers with 45 accompanied children; and 32 other adults.

As two of the Folkestone schools whose children were evacuated to the District were Senior Schools, a considerable proportion of the 190 children who have left the district were of school-leaving age; and have started work in their home towns or elsewhere. The same applies in a lesser degree to the Birmingham Children.

The general health of the evacuated children has been good; and the incidence of scabies and impetigo has been far less than in 1940.

VI SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(a) Housing.

Owing to war-time restrictions there has been little building of houses in the area, so that the figures relating to housing are much the same as last year

Number of houses owned by Local Authority on 31st	
	Dec. 1941.....70.
Number of houses in course of erection.....	nil.

VI. Contd.

Number of houses for which sanction had been given but which had not been commenced because of wartime restrictions.....38.
Number of houses erected in 1941..... 2.
By private enterprise..... 2.
By Local Authority.....nil.

Number of houses inspected for defects.....37.
Number of houses repaired as a result of informal action by Local Authority or its officers.....6
Number of houses in respect of which statutory notices were served requiring repairs.....4.

(b) Water Supply.

Llanvihangel Crucorney.

This scheme was completed during the year. Twenty-two connections to the main have been made, making a total of Forty-seven, and all the road works have been replaced to the satisfaction of the County Surveyor.

Brynygwenin.

As a result of unsatisfactory pathological reports of the water from this well, the suction pump and pipe were renewed; the well thoroughly cleaned; and the top of the well covered by a concrete slab with inspection cover.

A number of samples of water were taken after these improvements had been carried out, but they still proved unsatisfactory. A Fluorescein test showed that the contamination was not seeping through from surrounding land.

It was decided to instal a storage tank for drinking water, which was taken from the Mardy, and to continue taking samples of the well water at intervals.

Govilon.

A new 1,000 gallon concrete storage tank was installed, which now gives a storage capacity on this ram supply of 2,000 gallons.

Llanelen.

The tanks were thoroughly cleansed as a result of an unsatisfactory report from the Pathologist, and a new inspection cover fitted.

Llanwenarth Citra School Supply.

The brick storage tank was cleansed and built up above ground level, the ground surrounding the tank excavated to a depth of two feet and filled in with concrete, the top of the tank being covered with a concrete slab.

A number of minor improvements were carried out in other parts of the district, and 72 samples of water were taken for analysis by the Pathologist.

(c) Milk Supply.

Examination of dairies and cowsheds was carried out, and 19 samples of milk were submitted to the Public Analyst. A sample of Grade "A" T.T. Milk from Coldbrook Home Farm was submitted to the County Pathologist each month.

VI Contd.

(d) Meat Inspection.

No animals were slaughtered in the Rural District. All Slaughtering is carried out at the Abergavenny Abattoir.

(e) Refuse Collection.

The only extension in refuse collection was the inclusion of the Hardwick Coldbrook district in the monthly collection.

VII. SALVAGE OF WASTE.

In July 1941, in compliance with the suggestions received from the Ministry of Supply, a committee was formed to deal with the Salvage question. The Sanitary Inspector was appointed Salvage Officer for the district, and Salvage Stewards were appointed in each Parish. Posters and leaflets were circularised among the head teachers of the schools, asking for co-operation, and the W.V.S. arranged for suitable refuse dumps in each village. Two old cottages in the Mardy were loaned to the Council for storage of salvage material.

By the end of the year the amount of salvage collected amounted to:-

3 tons. 17 cwt. of paper.
10 " 0 " of metal.
4 " of bones.

The survey of unnecessary iron railings was practically complete by the end of December 1941.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

OLIVE G. GRIFFITHS,

Medical Officer of Health.